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Environmental NEWS RELEASE



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EPA: WORK TO BEGIN AT LINDSAY SITE SEPTEMBER 9

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 said today that drilling for soil samples is scheduled to begin Monday morning, September 9, at the Lindsay Light II site, a parking lot at 316 East Illinois St., Chicago.

The purpose of the sampling is to outline the nature and extent of radiation contamination found in an earlier study, completed this year.

The work is being done under an EPA unilateral administrative order issued in June to the responsible parties: Chicago Dock and Canal Trust, owners and operators of the site, and Kerr-McGee Chemical Corp., corporate successors of the Lindsay Light Co., which operated the site at the time of contamination.

The parking lot was once the site of a building leased by Lindsay Light Co., which used thorium to make mantles for gas lamps. Thorium is a naturally occurring radioactive element that is mined as ore and refined for use.

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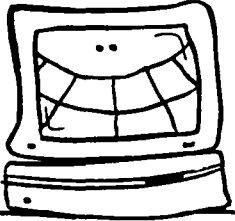
Soil sampling will take about 6 weeks. During the drilling, only a small part of the lot will be closed. But the entire lot will be closed during excavation, which will begin soon after the sampling ends.

The excavated soil will be placed in closed containers and shipped by train to a radioactive waste storage facility in Utah.

Surface tests at the parking lot show radioactive contamination at certain spots above background levels. A person would have to spend 30 minutes per day for 250 days (one work year) on one of these spots to get an exposure equal to one chest x-ray.

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(NOTE TO EDITORS: EPA officials will hold an availability session for the news media at 11 a.m. Monday, September 9, at the parking lot.)



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